Patent claims

1.

A method for assigning unique identifiers for allowing communication between a GPRS (General Packet Radio Service) system and a RADIUS (Remote Authentication Dial In User Service) server, the method including the steps of:

- connecting one or more external networks to the GPRS system and identifying the or each network with an APN (Access Point Name), and
- assigning to an or each APN external network a gateway address,

and the further steps of:

- passing an APN-external network authentication request from a GGSN (Gateway GPRS Support Node) to said RADIUS server,
- providing from said RADIUS server to said GGSN upon such request a subscriber IP (Internet Protocol) address to be stored in said GGSN (Gateway GPRS Support Node), said subscriber IP address being unique for the respective APN external network defined in said GGSN,
- using said GGSN for combining the APN gateway address and the subscriber IP address, to form a unique subscriber identifier, and
- sending from said GGSN said identifier to the RADIUS server for accounting, e.g. in the form of an ASCII string.

2.

The method according to claim 1, wherein:

Two or more of said APN external networks are provided with same subscriber IP address, but different gateway addresses to yield different unique APN identifiers.

3.

The method according to claim 1, wherein

Two or more subscribers are present in at least one of said networks, each subscriber in a common network being provided with its own subscriber IP address, but same network gateway address.

4.

The method according to claim 1, wherein

The identifier is a code string having as a first element the gateway address of the APN external network in question and as a second element the subscriber IP address appended thereto.